Environmental Learning Center - Edisto Island

Directions:

Oyster Row Ln.
Edisto Island, SC 29438

843-869-4430

Google Map

From Charleston, Dorchester or Berkeley Counties, get on Hwy 17 heading south. Turn left onto Hwy 174 heading toward Edisto Beach State Park.

From Colleton or Beaufort Counties, get on Hwy 17 heading north. turn right onto 174 heading toward Edisto Beach State Park.

Then: Stay on Hwy 174 for approximately 20 miles. After about 20-22 miles you will pass the Edisto Post Office, the Atwood Agency, and the Edisto Super Market (which is now closed), all on the right. Look for a brown sign on your right for the Edisto Interpretive Center. Turn right onto Palmetto Road, and go approximately 1.5 miles down this road. Take your first left onto a dirt road (if you go too far, you will enter into a subdivision called "The Neck"). There will be a brown sign advertising Live Oak Landing and the Edisto Interpretive Center. *Be careful turning left--this is a blind curve and people speed around it!* Drive past the iron ranger check station and keep going straight on the dirt road until you see the Edisto Interpretive Center sign on your right. Turn right and follow the road around to the center and parking area.

Discovery Vessel Program (must be 10 years old or older)
35 passenger capacity
Students collect water quality data and sample marine organisms that are collected by a trawl net during the vessel program. There will be an investigation into the organisms' form and function while identifying them. Students learn about local conservation issues and benefits of the estuary while developing critical science investigation skills.

Salt Marsh Field Study (grades K-12)
Join us for a muddy trek through the marsh to explore its importance and biodiversity. Students will use quadrats to replicate current research sampling methods while practicing species identification and data collection. Students will learn about adaptations of observed wildlife and human impacts on the salt marsh.

Sea Turtle Ecology (grades K-8)
Come learn about our state reptile! In this activity students will become a sea turtle biologist, learning about sea turtle biology, migration, and nesting. They will monitor a mock nest, and determine how human and natural threats to sea turtle survival can be mitigated.

How to Read a Fish (grades K-5)
Cast your interest this way as we explore the exciting world of fish. Join us as we examine their body shape and behaviors that make them unique. Discover the ancient Asian method of documenting fish size, Gyotaku! We will use fish and fish stamps to make colorful prints of estuarine fish.

Planet Plankton (grades 5-12)
Did you know that phytoplankton is responsible for producing more than 60% of the oxygen in the air we breathe? In this activity, students will collect, observe, and identify phytoplankton and zooplankton using microscopes and learn of their importance to estuarine and ocean life.

Oyster Reef Community (grades 5-12)
South Carolina oyster reefs provide important habitat and food for many species living in the estuary. In this activity students will comb through reef samples to collect, organize and identify the many organisms living within. Students will record findings on data sheets and determine the community structure of their oyster reef sample to share with the class.
Other topics introduced include: Invasive Species, Shoreline Stabilization, Water Quality and the Oyster Life Cycle

Dissections:

Squid Dissection (grades 5-12)
Did you know that oysters and squid are related? In this lab students will have the opportunity to examine connections between squid and some of their close marine relatives. Through a hands-on dissection, students will investigate some of the adaptations, defense mechanisms, and reproductive strategies of squid that have made them successful in waters around the world.

Fish Dissection (grades 5-12)
This lab includes a study of the adaptations of a common SC fish species. Students will learn about current research being done by fisheries scientists, including how to age a fish using its inner ear bones! This activity will also cover the importance of fishing regulations and careers offered by the SC DNR Marine Resources Department before diving into a comprehensive dissection examining the anatomical similarities and differences of bony fish and humans.

Shark Dissection (grades 6-12)
There are over 30 species of sharks off South Carolina's coast. Join DNR staff as we discuss why we study these fascinating predators. In this activity students will study the senses and adaptations of sharks through an in-depth guided dissection of internal and external anatomy.